

... Comings & Goings ...



JIM FARIA

... Homecoming: Two 16-year-old gay guys—and best friends at that—were elected homecoming princes at Davis Senior High in California ... and halfway across the country, two 17-year-old lesbians were named “cutest couple” by their Waukegan IL High School classmates in a poll for their yearbook. School officials tried to ban their pictures from appearing in the yearbook, but they ended up there anyway. This greatly upset right-wing TV personality (I have trouble referring to him as anything more substantive) Bill O’Reilly. He said on his Fox show that he doesn’t think it’s “normal” and believes that homosexuality is behavior by choice. O’Reilly discussed the issue on air with Dr. Laura Berman, a psychologist who has her own cable program. She was the voice of reason, saying, “homosexuality is becoming, thankfully, more normalized.” ... R.I.P.: Sister Helen Joly RJM, who ministered to LGBT folks with Dignity/Providence back in the 1970s, died in Florida on October 5. She also served in Fall River; Holy Family Convent, Woonsocket; and St. John’s Parish in North Smithfield. ... Best wishes to PrSYM and seaQuel co-founder Sarah Suong who is leaving the organization. SeaQuel — Southeast Asian Queers United for Empowerment and leadership -- is one of only two groups in the U.S. to include a focus on LGBT youth who

are Southeast Asian immigrants or of Southeast Asian descent. PrYSM was to recognize Suong as, “...the person who pulled us together and taught us to build and love” at a PrYSM Community Awards Ceremony last month. See our feature story, [Southeast Asian Queers Unite!](#) ... Don’t void where prohibited: Pissed off Belgium police have banned the “Place to Pee” game as an indecency offense. This is the urinal-based racing video game that men drive with their pee, and which warns them against drunk driving if they’re not controlling their video car too well. ... And speaking of restrooms, check out the ones at the new Downcity Restaurant. Not only are the sinks exquisite, but the signage on both of them says it all: “Either/Or”. ... Magna cum laudly: The erectile dysfunction drugs Viagra, Cialis and Levitra will soon come with new warnings that advise users they may experience sudden hearing loss. “We don’t know enough to say that it’s ironclad caused by the drugs, but we see enough to say we can’t ignore it either,” an FDA doctor said. ... Pull down your genes: Via genetic manipulation, U.S. scientists altered the brains of female worms, causing them to become attracted to other females. While the researchers can’t say what this means for sexual orientation in humans, it does raise the possibility that sexual preference is wired in an organism’s brain. But the scientists found there is more to the mating ritual than just sexual attraction. When the altered females get together with other females, “... they don’t know what to do,” said biologist Erik Jorgensen, pointing out that there are other brain cells involved in the actual mechanics of sex. ... Books on the Queer: December’s read is *Death In Venice* by Thomas Mann. Join the

discussion at 7 p.m. at Books on the Square in Providence. See Social Organizations in Resources section for book club meeting info... Congrats to former state Senator J. Clement “Bud” Cicilline for defeating David Carlin III (son of the former state senator) in last month’s Democratic primary. The House of Representatives District 75 seat in Newport was left vacant after the death of Rep. Paul Crowley. Cicilline had a perfect voting record on LGBT issues during his years in the state Senate and expressed support for same-sex marriage on at least one survey some time ago. He is an uncle of Providence mayor David Cicilline and has previously attended Pride. He will face Republican Steven J. Coaty and independent James E. Stanek in a Dec. 18 special election. Don’t forget to vote! ... Who’s sari now? A man married a dog in India last month in what he (the man) said was atonement for stoning two other dogs—not because of puppy love. The 33-year-old man (no age was given for the female dog) believed he was cursed for the murder of the animals. The AP reports that it is not unusual for some Indians to organize weddings to animals believing it can ward off certain curses. A traditional Hindu ceremony was conducted in a temple with the bitch draped in a sari and wearing a festive garland. I guess they allowed it because it was an opposite-sex couple. ... I see a protest brewing: Joseph “The Pope” Ratzinger will be visiting NYC, D.C. and elsewhere in the U.S. next April. Start making your signs. ... play safely... ▼

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